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MEMORANDUM

TOWN OF PONCE INLET, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

We strive to be professional, caring and fair

To: Jeaneen Witt, Town Manager

From: Aref Joulani, Director, Planning & Development Department

Date: March 3, 2016

Subject: *ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORTS TO THE FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST FOR THE PONCE PRESERVE AND TIMUCUAN OAKS GARDENS*

MEETING DATE: March 17, 2016

Both the Ponce Preserve and Timucuan Oaks Gardens were acquired with grant funding from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT). As part of the grant agreements, the Town is required to submit annual Stewardship Reports to FCT summarizing the progress made on the development, management and use of each park as required by the grant agreements.

Ponce Preserve:

In the past year, seven new educational programs were held at the Ponce Preserve, including two night sky programs by the Museum of Arts & Sciences, one bird watch walks throughout the preserve by the Halifax River Audubon Society, a program on Mangroves by the Volusia/Flagler Sierra Club, a home-school class about the Timucuan co-taught with Lyonia Preserve in Deltona, a Christmas Bird Count by Halifax River Audubon Society, and a natural areas of Ponce Inlet tour organized by the local chapter of Florida Native Plant Society. In addition to these programs, participation in the ECHO Ranger continued with four programs offered and the annual *Ponce Preserves the Planet*, Earth Day Celebration was held in April.

Staff has requested a reduction in the number of required educational programs from 24 to 12, and is awaiting approval from the FCT. Upon receipt of that approval, the Management Plan will be revised and submitted to Town Council for approval. At that time, the revised Management Plan, a statement of completion and as-built drawings will be submitted to the FCT with a request to transition to a 5-year reporting schedule.

Timucuan Oaks Gardens:

The report on Timucuan Oaks Gardens summarizes the recently completed entrance facilities and updates on invasive plant removal and mangrove planting. With the completion of the entrance gardens, the Parks & Rec Coordinator has begun to develop the required 12 annual educational programs. These programs will be designed to complement those offered at the Ponce Preserve such as a mangrove program, an extended bird walk tour to begin at Ponce Preserve and end at Timucuan Oaks Gardens, and programs about the Timucuan.

Aref Joulani, Director, Planning & Development Department

March 3, 2016
Date